

1919 7

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The Niobrara Reservation
In Nebraska,
MAY 11 1922

The work detail in so far as cash expenditure is concerned, and since July 1' 1918 comprises:-

The expense of hauling the nine tons of barbwire, from the car at Valentine, to Headquarters. This being the wire that was purchased with funds of 1917-1918. This expense is abnormal on account of the fording of the river with light loads, It is either ford the river and make the distance of haul five miles or go by the bridge, to a distance of twelve miles.

The expense of first unloading the two cars of fence posts which arrived in August and parking them on vacant lots in Town. Later hauling the same to Headquarters. They were left in town at first on account of false promises from the County Commissioners over the date for completion of new bridge, but eventually the posts were hauled in small loads through the river.

The expense of man to keep up the place and do the work during the absence of acting Warden; For two short trips and for one long trip to the west and North in October. Under this expense the man and men so engaged did do considerable work that was outlined to them towards the general plan of demolishing some old buildings the clean up and reconstruction of the property. Also the construction of certain improvements and conveniences to expedite the winter feeding of the bison and elk, which you understand is our heaviest work at this place. Also work upon certain new fence lines and the changing of one old fence bringing matters to conform to the larger plan. Also the moving of a quantity of hay to the barns in preparation for the winter feeding

It was planned to construct considerable barb wire fence this autumn past. Arrangements were made with several laborers for work. My trip for the portland Bison occupying the month of October retarded the starting of this work and while November was a good working month the crew that I assembled became laid out with the "flu" either themselves or members of their families and therefore nothing but very preliminary fence work, such as I could do with but one man, was accomplished. With December all work for the winter stopped.

Next to the work represented by the actual cash expense, the work that has absorbed considerable time and attention of the Acting Warden is as follows:-

Surveying of boundary lines in two instances, so that adjacent property owners could construct boundary fences. And with the opening of the Hunting season, more or less time was put in at outlying points and about the Reserve.

The hay business is important and requires considerable time. We have to have approximate sixty tons to get us through and this means the cutting of over two hundred tons, (to produce our share) It is worth considerable time on my part because we get this sixty tons, brought to us without any expense or cash outlay against our appropriation. At the beginning, agreements have to be made and each applicant shown his ground. Again they need constant visits to keep them lined up and see that they do not slough the harvest. Again in receiving the hay at headquarters and the measurements of all outlying stacks with divisions.

Considerable time is expended on the north side of the river to prevent some persistent cutting of our sparse timber and the hauling of it away for posts and wood. All parties have been warned to leave it alone both personally and by newspaper notices yet there are two certain persons, who persist with the damage and trespass and I am trying to catch them, and make a cause for action. Again there is much loose running stock over there and instead of going to the owners of said stock, parties will come to me with their complaints. They prefer that I get after the owner, which generally is their nearest neighbor,

Crops on the place were a complete failure on account of the dry summer, so they have not taken much time. The new fence was completed before July 1' excepting some minor details such as swinging gates and rocking holes which I did myself after the first. The bison and elk were turned in the new pasture September 5' They put on good flesh before cold weather as pasture was good. I will do the winter feeding in the old pasture and then turn back in the new for the first green grass and spring grazing. Coming back in the old later in the summer,